

THE COMING NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

When and where will the National Conference be held? is a question which we have been asked quite frequently within the last two or three weeks. All we know it is that there is to be such a conference held this fall sometime, but as to the exact time and the place we cannot give any information. What is the Executive Committee doing? Three months more brings us to September 1, and it takes all of this time to get ready for a good conference. Any other than a good one we do not want to hold. The committee should go to work at once, prepare a program, definitely fix the time and place of meeting and make public announcement of any railroad arrangements that can be made. A good conference is like a good apple, it takes it three months to ripen, but so far there has not yet been a sign of the conference. Is it not time that the work should begin? Very little can be done toward its success until the time, place and program are definitely announced.

A PUBLIC SHAME.

A certain saloon-keeper in the town of Ashland circulates a card on one side of which he advertises his business while on the other side appear these words: "I know that my Redeemer liveth." Certain it is that if this saloon-keeper continues his nefarious business, defying God, man, law, order and common decency, he will know some day that his Redeemer does in very deed live, and that he will vindicate his (the Redeemer's) own righteous cause in the last day. He will also then know that while his Redeemer lives, he himself does not live, that is not spiritually, and that so far as he is personally concerned the Redeemer has lived in vain, for he is not redeemed and his portion will be assigned among the workers of iniquity.

We repeat here what has often appeared in these columns, that the man who engages in the liquor business becomes conscienceless, has no regard for God, for things sacred, for public sentiment, for law, order and decency. The saloon business is synonymous with lawlessness; the vast majority of those who engage in it are law breakers and carry on their business in defiance of law and directly against the public good. But why should such a thing be tolerated in a town like Ashland with its numerous churches, Sunday-schools, young people's societies,

with eight or ten good, able preachers, supposed to be leaders, not in religious affairs only, but in public morals also? To say nothing of the religious sentiment, the conduct of the saloon keeper above referred to is sufficient to shock the moral sense of any half-way civilized community; and if the people of this town had a little backbone left, if they had the moral stamina they should have, such a state of affairs could not exist. The very fact that such blazon effrontery is tolerated is evidence that both the moral and religious sentiment is at a low ebb. But what can be done in a town with fifteen saloons, where almost every drug store sells intoxicating drink, if not with license then without it, where the public has to bow to the dictates of the devil and his agents? It is argued against churches that they exact too much from their people; that they keep them poor by constantly urging the great need of liberal contributions. Such charges are utterly false. It is the saloon that reduces men and women and children to poverty and rags, renders them homeless and wrecks them physically, morally and spiritually. The people of this town and vicinity drink forty barrels of beer a year and spend \$175,000 each year for strong drink, while the churches and their different organizations spend \$16,000 for various religious purposes. Where does the money go? Get the saloon out of the way, and the problem of poverty is settled. It is a fact which none dare deny, not even the liquor men themselves, that the saloon is the great fountain, source and breeder of crime, misery and poverty.

EFFECTUAL PRAYER.

The Bible not only teaches us to pray, but it teaches us how to pray. We are taught not to use vain repetitions in our prayers; that we are not heard for the many words that we utter but the spirit in which we utter them. If there is any one thing needful to make our prayers effectual, it is that our motives are pure, that the heart is right, that we are right with God, that we have faith in him as the rewarder of them that diligently seek him. The apostle declares that the effectual prayer of the righteous man availeth much. There are many prayers that avail nothing; the fault is not with God but with him who utters the prayers. We have the definite promise in God's word that he will answer prayer according to our needs and according to the faith in which we

ask. Do we believe it? Let us learn to pray, to pray earnestly, to pray in a spirit that will touch the heart of God to open himself to our several needs. The following beautiful and practical words from Bishop Hall are to the point:

An arrow, if it be drawn up a little way, goes not far, but if it be pulled up to the head, it flies swiftly and pierces deep. Thus prayer, if it be only dribbled forth from careless lips, falls at our feet. It is the strength of ejaculation and strung desire which sends it to heaven and makes it pierce the clouds. It is not the arithmetic of our prayers, how many there are; nor the rhetoric of our prayers, how eloquent they be; nor the geometry of our prayers, how long they be; nor the music of our prayers, how sweet our voice may be; nor the logic of our prayers, how argumentative they may be; nor even the divinity of our prayers, how good the doctrine may be—which God cares for. He looks not for the horny knees which James is said to have had through the assiduity of prayer! We might be like Bartholomew, who is said to have had a hundred prayers for the morning and as many for the evening, and all might be of no avail. Fervency of spirit is that which availeth much—

THE FAILURE OF LICENSE.

Has the license system been a success? It all depends upon what we call success. If its one object has been to secure revenue for the government, then it has been a great success. But if the object of license has been the restriction of the sale of intoxicating drinks, if it is meant to lessen the sale of liquor, then it has been a tremendous failure. If money is of more value than human souls; if it is profitable for the government to wreck manhood, fill jails, penitentiaries, insane asylums, make criminals, paupers and outlaws, if these things are profitable, then let it be admitted that license is a great success for it has accomplished all these and much more. The license system has fostered the liquor traffic; it has protected it as no other business is protected; it has lessened the number of saloons and increased the number of drinkers; it vainly attempts to make a disreputable business respectable; it puts the business into the hands of men who are capable of carrying on their nefarious trade with greater success than would otherwise be possible; it sells human lives and souls for a fixed sum of money, in other words, for a stated sum of money it gives one privilege to wreck men physically, morally and spiritually. There is no other business in the United States today that is equally protected with the liquor traffic. A man may buy a lot, put up a building and start a store right along side where you are doing a good business and take away at least some of your trade, but the saloon keeper is pro-